

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached herewith is a new Figure which generically shows the polarizing film of the present invention. Because there is only one Figure, it has not been labeled "Fig. 1" in view of 37 CFR 1.84(u)(1). Approval and entry of this new Figure are requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11 and 12 have been amended, and claims 13 and 14 are new. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

To overcome the Examiner's rejection that the language "each point ... 10^{-5} " is vague and indefinite in claim 1, claim 1 has been amended in order to add the specific measurement condition and argue that the claim becomes clear by the amendment and the relation of α , Re and Z value $[\sin^2 2\alpha] \times [\sin^2 (\pi \cdot \text{Re}/550)]$ and the technical meanings of these are fully explained on page 14, line 24 to page 16, line 2, "In the above formula, as a wavelength of linear polarization, ... The value can be applied as a substitute value" of the present specification. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements of 35 USC 112 have been met. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahiko, Japanese document 2001-337221. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The optical film of Takahiko '221 is related to the small size film having a width of 25 mm (see [0011] of Takahiko '221). On the other hand, the optical film of the present invention

has been developed for a variety of optical films of a large size flat panel display (see page 2, lines 6-14, page 15, lines 11-19, page 38, lines 10-13, etc.). The present invention obtains the optical long film having a wide width and low Z value over the whole surface of the film (see page 28, line 12 to page 29, line 9). Note that the inventions should be clear by the amendment that the optical film of the present invention has a wide width and can be used as the optical film of a large size flat panel display, etc.

According to the present invention, by satisfying the subject matter of claim 1, the optical film realizing the effect that color unevenness after durability test is not observed or hardly observed can be provided. The effect of the present invention is not disclosed in Takahiko '221.

Furthermore, Takahiko '221 fails to disclose the film having Re of 2 nm or less (see Table 1 of Takahiko '221).

Therefore, the present invention is different from Takahiko and not obvious from Takahiko ('221).

The application is in condition for allowance. It is requested that the 35 USC 102(b) rejection now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner has requested a drawing to facilitate an understanding of the invention. A generic showing of a polarizer with at least one surface having a protective film is now shown in the attached new Figure. This generic showing should not raise "new matter" and should satisfy the Examiner. In view of the requirement of 37 CFR 1.84(u)(1) the heading "Fig." has not been used. It is requested that this proposed new Figure be approved and that the Examiner's objection now be reconsidered.

The Examiner has also objected to claims 11 and 12 for a typographical error. Because this has been addressed, it is requested that this objection now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

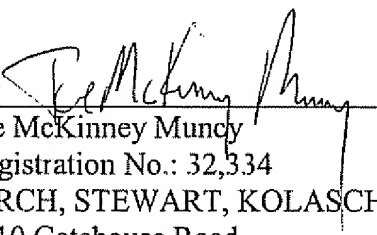
An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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